

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of measuring the quality of a plurality of medical consulting reports, comprising:

 assessing the quality of each said medical consulting report with respect to

 predetermined criteria to generate quantified medical consulting report

 quality data; and

 statistically analyzing said medical consulting report quality data to generate

 aggregate medical consulting report quality data.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined criteria include the report format.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined criteria include the relevance of the report to the medical questions it addresses.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined criteria include objective support in the report for the conclusion(s) reached.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined criteria include the use of medico-legal terminology.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein assessing the quality of each said medical consulting report comprises scoring the report for each assessed predetermined criterion according to a specific, objective scoring scale unique to that predetermined criterion.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein scoring the report for each assessed predetermined criterion comprises assigning a point total to the report representative of the assessment with respect to that predetermined criterion.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein said point total ranges from 0 to 5.
9. The method of claim 7 wherein statistically analyzing said medical consulting report quality data includes summing said point totals for each assessed predetermined criterion for a selected plurality of said medical consulting reports.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein said statistical analyses further include dividing said summed point totals by the number of said selected plurality of said medical consulting reports to generate an average score for each predetermined criterion.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein statistically analyzing said medical consulting report quality data further includes weighting each said predetermined criterion by a weighting factor, the weighting factors for all assessed predetermined criteria totaling 100.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein statistically analyzing said medical consulting report quality data further includes generating a weighted average score for each assessed predetermined criterion by multiplying said average score for each predetermined criterion by the corresponding said weighting factor.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein statistically analyzing said medical consulting report quality data further includes generating a weighted quality score for said selected plurality of said medical consulting reports by summing said weighted average scores for each assessed predetermined criterion.
14. The method of claim 1 further comprising reporting said aggregate medical consulting report quality data in tabular format.
15. The method of claim 14 wherein reporting said aggregate medical consulting report quality data comprises reporting said aggregate quality data for reports generated by each of a selected plurality of specific medical consultants.
16. The method of claim 1 further comprising reporting said aggregate medical consulting report quality data in graphic format.
17. The method of claim 16 wherein reporting said aggregate medical consulting report quality data comprises generating a medical consulting report quality distribution curve for medical consulting reports generated by said selected medical consultants.
18. The method of claim 1 further comprising deleting, without reporting, said medical consulting report quality data relating to individual medical consulting reports, following said analyzing step.
19. The method of claim 1 wherein assessing the quality of each said medical consulting report comprises communicating with the generator of a said medical report when said medical report contains insufficient information for a meaningful quality

assessment, and documenting all said communication with said generator of a medical report to ensure transparency of communication.

20. A system for assessing the quality of a plurality of medical consulting reports, comprising:
- a plurality of predetermined medical consulting report quality criteria, each said criterion comprising at least one objective assessment parameter, each said parameter having an associated scoring scale;
 - a quality assurance reviewer operative to assess each medical consulting report with respect to each said criterion, and to assign said medical consulting report numeric score for each said parameter; and
 - a medical consulting report quality data management system operative to aggregate and statistically analyze said numeric scores.
21. The system of claim 20 wherein said quality assurance reviewer is a human.
22. The system of claim 20 wherein said quality assurance reviewer is a computer system.
23. The system of claim 20 wherein aggregating said numeric scores comprises averaging said numeric scores, for a particular subset of said plurality of medical consulting reports.
24. The system of claim 20 wherein statistically analyzing said numeric scores includes weighting the average numeric score for each said criterion over a specific subset of said medical consulting reports by a predetermined weighting factor, and summing the weighted average numeric scores to generate a single weighted quality score for said subset of reports.

25. The system of claim 20 further comprising a reporting system operative to report medical consulting report quality data analyzed by said management system.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein only aggregated medical consulting report quality data is reported.

27. The system of claim 20 further comprising:
a medical professional selection unit that utilizes said statistical analysis to select
medical professionals for the generation of future medical consulting
reports.

28. A method of ensuring transparency of communication between a medical professional generating a medical consulting report and a QA reviewer assessing the quality of the medical consulting report, comprising:

- receiving an initial medical consulting report from the medical professional;
- initially assessing said initial medical consulting report with respect to
 - predetermined criteria to determine the sufficiency of said medical consulting report;
- requesting additional information from the medical professional if said medical consulting report is insufficient;
- receiving a revised medical consulting report from the medical professional;
- documenting all communications with the medical professional;
- assessing said revised medical consulting report with respect to predetermined
 - criteria to generate quantified medical consulting report quality data; and
- statistically analyzing said medical consulting report quality data, along with
 - medical consulting report quality data from other medical consulting reports, to generate aggregate medical consulting report quality data.

29. A method of controlling the quality of a medical consulting report program, comprising:
- assessing the quality of each of a plurality of medical consulting reports with respect to predetermined criteria to generate quantified medical consulting report quality data;
 - statistically analyzing said medical consulting report quality data to generate aggregate medical consulting report quality data, and
 - in response to said aggregate medical consulting report quality data, selecting medical professionals to generate future medical consulting reports so as to improve said aggregate medical consulting report quality data.